(c) whether similar situation emerged where Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) or Oil India Limited (OIL) were engaged on exploration during 2007-08; and

(d) if so, the number of blocks and the expenditure incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Seven exploration blocks were awarded to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) under six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far, in the Kerala Konkan Deep Water Areas. So far, on hydrocarbon discovery has been made in these blocks.

One block namely KK-DWN-2004/1 was awarded to the consortium of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) (45%) Cairn Energy Limited (CAIRN) (40%) and Tata Petrodyne (15%) under VIth round of NELP. No Discovery has been made in this block also so far.

(c) and (d) Currently, ONGC is holding license for five NELP blocks with 100% participating interest (PI) in Kerala Konkan Basin and pursuing exploration activities. The total expenditure reported by ONGC in these five blocks is Rs.20.96 crores.

Subsidiary unit for city gas distribution

2449. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) proposes to set up a separate subsidiary unit for its city gas distribution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified certain cities for such projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating those that have been identified in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) GAIL (India) Ltd. has incorporated a wholly owned subsidiary, *viz.*, GAIL Gas Ltd., to implement City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects in the country. GAIL Gas Ltd. has been incorporated on 27.5.2008. Its authorized share capital is Rs. 200 crores.

(c) and (d) Based on connectivity to trunk pipelines, viability and level of pollution, Government has given authorization to GAIL (India) Ltd. and its Joint Venture Companies to undertake city gas distribution projects in the following cities-

Mumbai and district Thane, including Navi Mumbai and Mira Bhayender, Delhi and its suburbs, *viz.* NOIDA (Gautambudh Bagar), Gurgaon and Faridabad, Vijaywada, Hyderabad, Agartala, Pune including Pimpri and Chinchwad, Gwalior, Ujjain, Indore, Lucknow, Agra, Kanpur, Bareilly and Vadodara.

Further, the new company GAIL Gas Ltd. has submitted Expressions of Interest (EOI) to Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) for developing CGD network in 7 cities, namely Kota, Jhansi, Mathura, Sonipat, Dewas, Gwalior and Ghaziabad. Implementation of City Gas Distribution Projects in the States of Orissa and Jharkhand has not been taken up, as of now.

Crisis of LPG in Tamil Nadu

2450. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the people of Tamil Nadu especially in Chennai are very much affected due to the short supply of domestic LPG cylinders;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the domestic supply of LPG cylinders to meet the shortage; and

(c) the details of proposals to solve the present crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the State of Tamil Nadu and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 643.30 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Tamil Nadu during April to November, 2008 as against 608.04 TMT during the corresponding period of last year.

However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported backlog of 1 day in LPG supplies in the State of Tamil Nadu mainly because of spurt in demand and heavy rains in Tamil Nadu , Government has advised IOC to liquidate the backlog in the State by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

Calculation of under recovery

2451. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Marketing Corporations (OMCs) are suffering due to under recoveries from the petroleum products that they sell;

(b) if so, the details of under recoveries made by OMCs in the last three years, company-wise and product-wise; and

(c) the details of method adopted by his Ministry for calculating under recoveries of various petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Despite a fall in the international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been incurring under-recovery of Rs.16.60 per litre on the sale of PDS Kerosene and Rs.142.67 per 14.2 kg. Domestic LPG cylinder, as on 1.12.2008.